



Press Release

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Statement by Cal/EPA Secretary Regarding Assembly Bill 32 *Adams Confirms Commitment to Work with Speaker*

SACRAMENTO – Linda Adams, the governor's newly appointed Secretary for Environmental Protection issued the following statement on Assembly Bill 32 (Nuñez/Pavley), which passed out of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee today:

"AB 32 could be an important tool in meeting Gov. Schwarzenegger's aggressive greenhouse gas targets. Working with Speaker Nuñez, Assemblywoman Pavley and other key stakeholders, I'm confident we can develop legislation that will support California's progressive approach to address climate change, economic growth and technological innovation.

"The governor has set aggressive goals to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, meaning we must get to work creating an emission reduction system that allows for flexibility, using a combination of multi-sector market-based programs, incentive measures, best management practices and regulatory measures.

"Most importantly, as energy deregulation taught us, these issues are complex and affect the entire economy of California, so we need to get it right. Therefore, it's essential that any system have an economic safety valve to ensure that any programs intended to reduce greenhouse gases do not have unintended consequences that are detrimental to the economy.

"We will be working with the Legislature to ensure the bill is narrowly focused to achieve the goals and include the following key components:

- ✓ **Establishes a GHG cap to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, with enforceable benchmarks beginning in 2012 that includes a multi-sector market-based program to reduce GHG emissions in the most cost-effective manner.**
- ✓ **Requires mandatory reporting of GHG emissions for the largest sectors** (oil and gas extraction, oil refining, electric power, cement manufacturing, and solid waste landfills).

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- ✓ **Includes a consolidated, accurate emissions inventory in order to determine 1990 GHG emissions baseline.**
- ✓ **Continues the California Climate Action Registry and gives credit to businesses that voluntarily joined the Registry.**
- ✓ **Creates an umbrella entity to develop and coordinate the implementation of a state GHG reduction plan to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.**
- ✓ **Does not weaken existing environmental or public health requirements.**
- ✓ **Ensures public review and comment, with specific consideration for minority and low-income communities.**
- ✓ **Contains an economic safety valve to ensure the state GHG emission reduction plan protects public health and the environment, is technologically feasible, and is not detrimental to the California economy.**
- ✓ **Allows a one-year review period by the Legislature of the adopted state GHG emission reduction plan.**

"I'm optimistic that we're in a good position to build a system that incorporates these components, but it can't be done without full participation from all of the stakeholders. Any plan should be fully vetted and subject to extensive public review and comment.

"California is poised to develop new clean technologies that can be marketed around the world. By working together to respond to the very real threats of climate change, we will ultimately build a system that reduces greenhouse gases, protects public health and improves our environment. We can reach the governor's targets, but we must start today."

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the California Climate Action Team (CAT) will host a technology symposium at the Cal/EPA headquarters in downtown Sacramento. The symposium will feature a series of keynote addresses and panel discussions related to the role of technology in meeting the governor's greenhouse gas targets. The symposium is free and open to the public. It will also be web cast live at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/calendar/#publicmeetings>.

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